

District 180 News



Kentucky Department of Education

Largest Common Core learning event of the year hosted by Kentucky Department of Education



From February 20 to March 19, 2014, KDE will join Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs and School Improvement Network for a national online Common Core training. The Kentucky Department of Education is excited to invite every educator in the state to join Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs for the largest-ever “book mob”—an unprecedented opportunity to access free Common Core guidance from the most renowned experts on the subject.

The book mob will be a four-week online study of Dr. Jacobs’ Mapping to the Core LumiBook (ebook), available to all Kentucky educators through CITTS. During the event, educators will read Mapping to the Core, going online to discuss what they’ve learned and to receive feedback and insights from Dr. Jacobs and her co-authors, Dr. Ann Johnson, Dr. Debbie Sullivan, and Dr. Marie Alcock.

KDE has organized this event especially around the needs and challenges of Kentucky educators.

Every Kentucky attendee will have the opportunity to:

- Interact with Dr. Jacobs and her team to see how they are solving implementation challenges around the US
- Network and get ideas and best practices for Common Core implementation from teachers and leaders all over the US
- Get resources for Common Core implementation that can be used immediately in classrooms and front offices

When: The Mapping to the Core book mob begins on February 20 and continues every day until March 19, 2014.

Where: The entire event is being held online and will be available for reading and viewing from your Mapping to the Core LumiBook. All you need is a license to the Mapping to the Core LumiBook and an Internet connection.

How to sign up: To sign up for the Mapping to the Core book mob, visit <http://www.schoolimprovement.com/lumibook-mob-ky/>. Contact Jackie Rogers with any questions at Jackie.rogers@education.ky.gov or 502-564-4970 (extension 4522).

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Priority Schools in the News

Dr. Houston Barber, who led turn-around at Fern Creek High School, was named the new principal at **Academy at Shawnee** - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6G0YBIY&dasi=3UBI>

New alternative school closely aligned with **Christian County High School** serves students with wide range of needs; emphasizes college and career readiness, personal responsibility - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6GAAY0Y&dasi=3UBI>

National Honor Society at **Christian County High School** sponsors second year of “Teens for Jeans” drive to help others struggling with clothing needs - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6G0A0A0&dasi=3UBI>

East Carter High School freshman Morgan Jones one of seven winners of 2013 Yes I Can! Competition - <http://www.dailyindependent.com/local/x1199562592/Local-teen-wins-Yes-I-Can-award#content>



Morgan Jones

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District 180-Related Information

Quality Counts rates states and the nation on key student-performance and finance indicators. Equity in Achievement, Funding Are Hurdles for States Amid Progress - <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/01/09/16sos.h33.html>

State report cards for Quality Counts 2014 http://www.edweek.org/ew/qc/2014/state_report_cards.html?intc=EW-QC14-TOC

Higher Number of KY Public School Graduates Enroll in College - http://www.kentuckyteacher.org/news/2013/11/higher-number-of-public-school-graduates-enroll-in-college/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+KentuckyTeacher+%28Kentucky+Teacher%29

Superintendent Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (SPGES) aims for continuous improvement - <http://www.kentuckyteacher.org/features/2013/12/superintendent-system-aims-for-continuous-improvement/>

Green River Regional Educational Cooperative wins \$40 million Race to the Top grant - <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/01/04/15rtt.h32.html>

Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative wins \$30 million in U.S. Department of Education Race to the Top District competition; tied with Houston district for top award - http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2013/12/five_districts_mostly_rural_wi.html

Proposed summative model of Teacher Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (TPGES) presented to the Kentucky Board of Education - http://www.kentuckyteacher.org/features/2013/12/teacher-evaluations-funding-need-explained-at-state-board-meeting/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+KentuckyTeacher+%28Kentucky+Teacher%29

Leslie and Knox Counties part of Federal "Promise Zone" designation for eastern Kentucky that will encompass high school college and career readiness programs - <http://blogs.courier-journal.com/politics/2014/01/08/president-barack-obama-to-designate-southeastern-kentucky-as-a-promise-zone/>

Kentucky holds steady in Education Week's state-by-state grades for six areas of educational policy and performance - <http://education.ky.gov/comm/news/Documents/R%202014-003%20Quality%20Counts.pdf>

What every child can learn from Kentucky - <http://www.parentsunit-ed.org/news/what-every-child-can->

Construction science students at the Carter County Career and Technical Center give miniature golf course at Carter Caves State Resort Park a welcome facelift - <http://www.journal-times.com/local/x1647917489/Students-revitalizing-miniature-golf-course#content>

Priority Schools in the News

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Franklin-Simpson High School collaborating with Western Kentucky University and Bowling Green High School to pilot student teacher enhancement project - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6GA23PI&dasi=3UBI>

Frankfort Independent High team studies **Franklin-Simpson High School** for "model school lessons" - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6G0AUGB&dasi=3UBI>

Greenup County High School takes a big step toward removing low-achieving status with latest accountability scores; school is now proficient - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6GAAYAY&dasi=3UBI>

Opinion: Amazing turnaround at **Greenup County High School** didn't happen by accident; rise to top one-third in state and significant progress is "something to brag about" - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6GAAA22&dasi=3UBI>

Greenup County High School agriculture students will be growing produce for their cafeteria and a farmers market this spring thanks to a \$43,000 USDA farm-to-school grant - <http://www.dailyindependent.com/local/x1566989235/GCHS-has-big-plans-for-farm-to-school-grant#content>

Due to improvement in preparedness of students at **Lawrence County High School**, Lawrence County Schools has jumped into top 10 in the state for College and Career Readiness - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6GAAB0I&dasi=3UBI>

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From Feb. 2014 KSIS & More newsletter (volume 7, issue 2)

Online toolkit available to assist in completing the Student Voice Survey

A toolkit is now available to assist schools and districts successfully conduct the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) Student Voice Survey. The toolkit is located on the [Student Voice web page](#) and contains guidance documents, frequently asked questions, and sample survey questions. See [Preparing Campus Portal](#) in the toolkit for details about creating student accounts. By February 14, students in grades 3 through 12 who will participate in the survey should test access to their Campus Portal accounts.

In late February, Student Voice specific features will be added to Infinite Campus and the toolkit will be updated intermittently with timely information regarding survey preparation, administration, and results.

The timeframe for administration of the 2013-14 survey is March 19 – April 2. All teachers in the statewide PGES pilot are required to participate. In preparation for full implementation of the 2014-15 survey, districts are encouraged to allow all teachers to participate in this year's survey.

Items below are from the East Carter County High School newsletter (12/19/13, volume 2, issue 4)

Martin earns national board certification

Courtney Martin, Reading and AP English teacher, was recently notified that she earned her English 8-12 National Board Certification for Teaching (NBCT). The NBCT is a voluntary assessment program designed to develop, retain, and recognize accomplished teachers, and to embed ongoing improvement in schools nationwide. While state teacher credentialing programs set the basic requirements to teach in each state, National Board Certified Teachers must demonstrate advance teaching knowledge, skills, and practices. Completion of National Board Certification signifies that teachers have developed and demonstrated the skills required of an accomplished

education professional.

The process of becoming nationally certified is a year-long process centered on these 5 propositions:

- Teachers are committed to students and their learning.
 - Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.
 - Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.
 - Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.
 - Teachers are members of learning communities.
- ECHS is very proud to now have a National Board Certified teacher on its staff. Way to go, Ms. Martin!



Priority Schools in the News

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Leslie County High School recognized by U.S. Department of Education as an example for Ohio educators looking to improve schools - <http://www.wkyt.com/wymt/home/headlines/EKY-school-system-recognized-by-US--232389881.html>

Kentucky Teacher column by Joanna Howerton Stevens, a math teacher **Lincoln County High School** who was named the 2014 High School Teacher of the Year - http://www.kentuckyteacher.org/guest-columnist/2013/11/dreams-really-do-come-true/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+KentuckyTeacher+%28Kentucky+Teacher%29

96% of **Lincoln County High School** Senior Class Has Applied to Post-Secondary Institutions - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6GAAYG2&dasi=3UBI>

New **Lincoln County High School** graduation honors system to make class rankings fairer for those who take tougher courses; "career" diploma option added - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6G0PUB0&dasi=3UBI>

Firefighters become mentors for **Newport High School** students; first-of-its-kind fire science program to start next year - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6G0BBAB&dasi=3UBI>

Metcalfe County High School is the second highest scoring Priority School in the state; achieved Distinguished status on 2013 tests - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6GA0YA0&dasi=3UBI>

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ECHS — A great place to learn

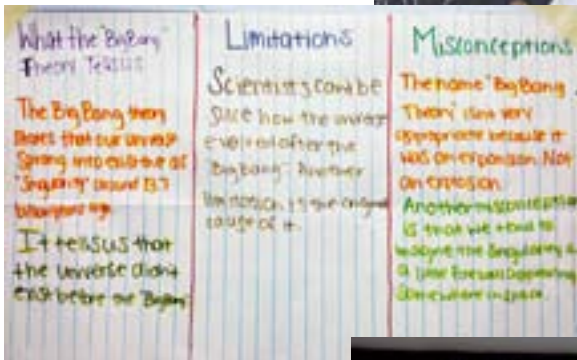


The life cycle of the sun

Beowulf



The big-bang theory



The jazz age



Priority Schools in the News

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Metcalfe County High School health sciences students get a firsthand look at careers through tour of Kosair Children's Hospital - <http://www.ksba.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6G03U30&dasi=3UBI>

Perry County High School students and teachers reap rewards from tablet implementation- http://www.hazard-herald.com/news/home_top-news/2874044/Students-and-teachers-reap-rewards-from-tablet-implementation

Trimble County High School serves as district's pilot school for Professional Growth and Effectiveness System - <http://madisoncourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=4&SubSectionID=270&ArticleID=80222>

Are you socially connected to KDE?



KDE has both a Facebook page and a Twitter feed. Subscribe to the KDE Twitter feed by connecting to @KyDeptofEd. Two other helpful KDE-related Twitter hashtags are #CIITS and #KyEdChat.

You can access the KDE Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/kydeptofed> or by searching for "Kentucky Department of Education" on Facebook under "Government Organization."

Items below are from the East Carter County High School newsletter (11/26/13, volume 2, issue 3)

ECHS fall showcase

East Carter High School was the place to be on Tuesday, Nov. 12. The school was a hub of activity with an open house showcase of student work, the distribution of assessment results, and a very special student-led project. The evening was capped off by a celebration ceremony in the gym where state and local officials took their turns praising the progress and accomplishments of East Carter High School, which was designated as a Distinguished School based on the 2013 state assessments. Approximately 300 students earned awards based on their excellent performance on state assessments.

East Carter principal Larry Kiser welcomed approximately 275 teachers, parents, students, and community members in attendance. Donna Tackett from the Kentucky Department of Education spoke about the excellent results that the high school had posted and brought congratulations from the Commissioner of Education's Office. State Representative Jill York and Grayson Mayor George Steele also addressed the crowd. Mayor Steele presented an award

to Superintendent Ronnie Dotson for the district's recent designation as a proficient school district. Dotson offered his congratulations to the school and praised the hard work of students, faculty, and leadership that led to this distinguished rating.

Two awards for support staff were given that night. Marcia Riffe, an instructional aide at East Carter, was presented her state finalist FRED award given by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators. Jeff May was presented his Merit Award given by the Kentucky Association of School Resource Officers.

Freshmen were presented awards for meeting all benchmarks on the EXPLORE test given in September. Sophomores who met all benchmarks on the September PLAN assessment were given awards as well. Juniors and seniors who scored an A on any end of course assessment were also given awards. ECHS seniors who are already designated as College and/or Career Ready were recognized with an award pin.

*ECHS students
who are CCR
ready*



Parents picking up state assessment results for their students and talking to counselors



Taylor Burnett with her project to sign students up for online transcripts

East Carter JROTC honors veterans

The East Carter High School JROTC honored our local veterans with a breakfast and remembrance ceremony on Nov. 13. This annual program has become a tradition at the school. The entire student body was in attendance for this ceremony that honored current and past veterans in our community who risked their lives to protect our freedoms. JROTC students were dressed in various uniforms that

depicted the different branches of our military and different eras. A flag ceremony was held to display the many different US flags that have represented our nation.

The East Carter JROTC is led by Colonel John Firebaugh and Sergeant John Runyan. Talena Watts teaches our culinary classes, who prepared a delicious breakfast for our veterans.



East and West Carter High School students serve on court together

East and West Carter High School students are participating in Teen Court that is sponsored by Judge H. Rupert Wilhoit III of the 37th Judicial District. Teen Court provides its members with hands-on experience in the judicial system. Students act as prosecutors, defense attorneys, jurors, bailiffs and court clerks on real cases beginning in December.

Juvenile offenders who have pled guilty in juvenile court can agree to be referred to Teen Court for sentencing.

The Teen Court can recommend community service, restitution, a letter of apology, and/or counseling. There are 26 Teen Court programs operating in 32 Kentucky counties.

The Kentucky Teen Court swearing in ceremony was held Nov. 13 at West Carter Middle School. District Judge Wilhoit presided over the ceremony.

Teen Court members took an oath of confidentiality and presented a mock trial. East Carter students Abigail Stanley and Avery Tomaselli are participating in Teen Court.



Kentucky Teen Court swearing in ceremony held November 13th at West Carter Middle School

Raider French Week

The East Carter Chapter of the French Honor Society celebrated Raider French Week Nov. 18-22 with the theme "French is Cool." Students did projects in class that highlighted the many cool things about France, the French people, and the rest of the French-speaking world. On Monday, Nov. 18, Ben Hawkins kicked off the week by delivering the morning announcements and sharing "French Words of the

Day." He continued this for the remainder of the week. On Tuesday, Nov. 19, students wore hats to school to celebrate St. Catherine's Day.

A \$10 gift card was awarded to the student who had the most interesting hat.

Thursday was "French Film Night." Pizza and refreshments were served and a recent French film was viewed.



Volunteers Getting in the Spirit

East Carter High has been buzzing with activity this past week with parent and student volunteers busily getting the school ready for the winter season. Snowflakes are hanging, and if you walk through the student entrance hallway, you'll see a giant snowman tree, woodland branches and

pinecones forming a canopy, and garland outlining the windows. The art department led by Charles McDaniel is busy making colored paper chains, sketching their ideas for painting of the large windows lining the student entrance hallway, and making paper-mache woodland animals.



Items below are from the Fleming County Schools newsletter (November 2013 volume 11, issue 3)

Panther Paws

Students at Fleming County High School now have the opportunity to receive rewards for having a positive attitude at school. When students demonstrate positive behavior in the classroom, in or around areas of the building, or during school sponsored activities, they can be rewarded by a staff member with Panther P.A.W.S. (Positive Attitude Within School). This is all part of the FCHS Positive Behavior Intervention Support Plan that has been developed and implemented this year. After receiving the "Paw," they place it in a box in the front office. Every Friday there is a drawing where two students are drawn from

that week. These students will win a grab bag of candy and "Leet Loot." On the back of each piece of Leet Loot, students can choose from a variety of rewards.

These rewards range from homework passes to eating lunch with a friend in the library as well as a free Ale8 from Mrs. Paige in the FRYSC.

The reward that seems to be the favorite of the student body thus far has been the Leet Loot that allows you to skip the lunch line for a week with a friend.

In addition, for rewarding the student body, another Panther Paw is drawn to recognize staff members that

have been handing out Panther Paws. The teacher that is drawn is rewarded with a free planning period provided by the Educational Recovery Staff.

Teachers can choose when they want to receive their free planning time as long as they provide 24 hour notice as well as lesson plans for the E.R. staff to teach.

The Panther Paw program is a small piece of the PBIS plan to focus the school initiatives toward building a positive culture within our school.

PBIS encompasses a broad span of student behavior initiatives to assist in creating a positive school climate at FCHS.

On Location: Professional Learning & Research

Fleming County Schools are participating in a Peer Observer Research Project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Twenty-seven teachers are involved, nine as peer observers, and 18 as teachers of record (being observed).

One part of this professional learning experience began in late July when the teachers received and were trained in the use of Insight Duo cameras that capture in 180 degree format what is going on during observations. All 27 teachers successfully completed the Peer Observer Training Module developed collaboratively by KDE and KET (and featuring two Fleming County High School teachers, Uriah Albrink and Melissa Plank).

By the end of November, each teacher of record is to be observed three times, two minis (20-30 minutes) and one full class period observation. The peer observers watch the videotaped lessons, scripting evidence that they then share with the teacher of record in a reflective post-observation conference. These observations are based on the Danielson Framework for Teaching that is being used for Kentucky's Professional Growth and Effectiveness System. This Framework uses multiple measures of teacher effectiveness, all with an eye to continuous professional growth.

The second part of this professional learning experience involves researching the implementation of peer observation in schools in other states. During the second week of November, a group of Fleming County educators traveled



A group of Fleming County teachers and administrators, along with their counterparts from Magoffin County, visited schools in Hillsborough County Schools in Tampa, Fla., to gather information about how they are using peer evaluation.

to Hillsborough County Schools in Tampa, Fla., to observe their use of peer observation. Fleming County chose this site to visit because it is featured in literature about the MET (Measures of Effective Teaching) Project commissioned by the Gates Foundation, a study aimed at creating a standardized teaching evaluation system that can be used across the country. Hillsborough County was one of the first districts in the country to implement this model as a teacher evaluation process. In addition, the MET project asked Hillsborough to participate in a research grant on the use of peer observers in this process,

much like what is occurring here in Fleming County. The findings from the research project was that adding peer observation to the process gave a much more accurate and complete picture of what teaching was occurring in the classroom and whether that teaching was effective or not. The Fleming County team has brought back invigorating experiences and information from Hillsborough County Schools that will help our district further enhance effective teaching practices within our own school district.

The item below is from the Academy at Shawnee

There are three new National Board Certified Teachers at the Academy at Shawnee. Congratulations to Stacy McKinley, Imogen Herrick, and Jama Vogt!



Items below are from Seneca High School

The two articles and pictures below are by Heather Orman, Literacy Educational Recovery Specialist at Seneca

Seneca to be featured on All Things PLC site

Seneca High School will be the first school in Kentucky and in Jefferson County Public Schools featured on All Things PLC. All Things PLC is a website created by Solution Tree featuring schools that use Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) effectively. Exemplary schools are included as models for other schools interested in PLC implementation or refinement.

According to <http://www.allthingsplc.info/evidence/>, the schools showcased are selected for inclusion “using rigorous

criteria.”

The website includes evidentiary data of student academic growth, awards, and testimonials listed by school. Jody Johnson, a U.S. History teacher at Seneca and PLC lead, who attended a Leadership Now Conference featuring PLC powerhouses Rick and Becky Dufour, remembers wanting Seneca to be one of the select group spotlighted on All Things PLC as it was discussed.

Now her dream has come true.

Mock trial team preparing for March competition

Emily Fritts, attorney and graduate of UK College of Law, and Justin Cornell, attorney and graduate of UL's Brandeis School of Law, are currently pre-law teachers at Seneca High School and sponsor Seneca's first competitive Mock Trial team. In the fall, after a rigorous tryout and selection process, Seneca's Mock Trial team was given an eighty-page case overview including interviews from witnesses, potential exhibits, autopsy reports and more. Students then examined the materials, decided how they wanted to present their case, and spent extensive time in preparation for a statewide competition held March 14-16 at Eastern Kentucky University.

Mock Trial teams must be prepared to serve as both the prosecution and the defense in competition. Because Seneca's team has 14 members, Ms. Fritts and Mr. Cornell have created two teams of seven that specialize in either prosecutorial or defense skills.

Students draft an opening statement, questions for witnesses (direct and cross examination), and a closing statement. Among the seven members of a team, three team members will serve as attorneys, three will serve as witnesses, and

one will serve as timekeeper at competition. Mock trial teams are not trying to win the case via a guilty or not guilty verdict, but instead are scored by specific criteria for attorneys and witnesses established by competition officials.

Seneca's Mock Trial team currently practices after school two days a week for nearly three hours per session to prepare for the competition beginning March 14. The competition is three days. On Day 1, Mock Trial teams from around Kentucky begin competition on Eastern Kentucky University's campus. On Days 2 and 3, the Mock Trial competition takes place in the realistic setting of the Lexington-Fayette



Seneca's Mock Trial team hard at work at an afternoon practice

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County Courthouse. Attorneys from across Kentucky serve as judges. There are two rounds on Friday and Saturday of the competition. On the final day of competition only the two highest scoring teams compete. This is the first year that

Seneca is competing in the Kentucky High School Mock Trial competition, and Ms. Fritts and Mr. Cornell are very optimistic about their chances considering the team's hard work, dedication, and potential.

Item below is from Frederick Law Olmsted Academy North

Finding new ways to “win”

By Brenton Parsons, Language Arts PLC Coach at Frederick Law Olmsted Academy North

It is a common problem in the education field: A teacher would like to give more individualized attention to a student who is not displaying concept mastery, but there are only so many hours in a school day.

Or are there?

At Frederick Law Olmsted Academy North (FLOAN) in Jefferson County, the number of hours that a teacher can access a student is increasing thanks to a new after-school program that allows for comprehensive instruction and tutoring three times a week. The program, entitled WIN Plus – short for What I Need – enables students to receive up to six hours of additional instruction, often with smaller class sizes, yielding big results.

“There are many standards, and time is always at a premium in the classroom,” said Bill Perkins, principal at FLOAN. “We knew that students needed more time to master the content. Thanks to district funding, we have been able to offer this unique program and meet more of our students’ needs.”

Although the school knew it was important to address the students’ instructional needs, they began by focusing first on the physiological needs of students. A hungry student or a student without transportation is unlikely to take advantage of any after school program. Using district resources, the school has been able to provide an afternoon meal and transportation, leading to an impressive level of participation. Between 40-90 students attend each day, with over 6,000 hours of student instruction being gained since WIN Plus started. The program also pays teachers for their time, encouraging teachers to participate and rewarding them for their efforts.

“Students want to be successful, their parents want them to be successful, and teachers want their students to be successful,” said Perkins. “If a program can meet the basic needs of all stakeholders involved and offer everyone some benefit, they are going to support it. We have been very pleased with the level of student and teacher participation.”

In addition to food and transport attracting students, a

large part of the success in attracting students to the program has been the diligent work of Sherri Harris, the WIN Plus program coordinator, who worked in conjunction with the guidance staff to identify students who needed the support, communicated with parents to help enroll students in the program, and monitored attendance levels to keep students on the path to success.

“We will call parents and check in on students if they stop attending,” said Harris, who also serves as a Social Studies PLC Coach at the school. “We know that this program is only

going to help students if they attend consistently. A lot of effort is put in to make sure that students attend on a regular basis.”

During WIN Plus time, students are divided by grade and subject and work with content area teachers using a number of different resources to ensure students make the most of their time. Each class begins with a short homework period, transitions into a targeted lesson built around core standards in math or literacy, and culminates with various assignments to build students’ overall skills in each subject.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in JCPS’ e-School program, completing online modules that target academic standards and help them make up missing credits in their transcripts.

Data is tracked using EasyCBM and the eSchool program to ensure students are gaining from their experience, and teachers are seeing first-hand the difference the program is making.

“I have a student who has never missed a session,” said Brenton Parsons, a Language Arts PLC Coach who works with WIN Plus classes twice a week.

“He is an ESL student who works hard and wants to improve the language deficiencies that are a natural part of learning English as a second language. His growth has been incredible – growth he has made above and beyond what he could achieve in a Language Arts class alone.”

By targeting one of the central barriers to student achievement – time – FLOAN is expecting and getting big results.

“If a program can meet the basic needs of all stakeholders involved and offer everyone some benefit, they are going to support it. We have been very pleased with the level of student and teacher participation.”

Item below from Southern High School

Budding young playwrights growing at Southern High School

Article and picture by Joyce Jackson, Literacy Educational Recovery Specialist at Southern

Actor's Theater and a partnership with the Kennedy Foundation have brought new life to the classrooms of Southern High School and given students an opportunity to fully integrate the Common Core Standards of English Language Arts in a fun and interactive way. Actor's Theater spent six weeks working with students in ECE (Exceptional Child Education) and ECE collaborative classrooms on the development of a personal 'Ten Minute Play.' Thanks to grant monies provided by the Kennedy Foundation, which infuses the love of drama with the love of words, Southern High School ECE students have evolved into amazing young playwrights.

"Students learned so much more than just how to write plays. They

grew into a learning community. Students took risks and read peers' work aloud, offered critical feedback to their peers, and learned how to accept feedback from others so as to improve and grow. It was an amazing transformation to observe," said their teacher, Amanda McFarland Smith.



Southern High School students participating in the Discovery Playwright Project

Steven Rahe, director from Actor's Theater, led both the classroom instruction and the after school production.

Young actors, writers, and leaders from Actor's Theater attended the after school readings and participated in the actual reading of the students' work.

The students watched their plays come to life through the readings performed by teachers, students, parents, and members of the Actor's Theater community.

"When school and community come together, powerful learning occurs," said Bryce Hibbard, principal of Southern High School.

"We cannot do this work alone and are appreciative of Actor's Theater and the Kennedy Foundation's support."

Item below are from Valley High School

College and Career Readiness display for Valley High School seniors



***Send us your news!***

We will be sending the next District 180 newsletter in April. If you have positive news related to your school, we would love to publish it in the newsletter! Links to news stories and/or pictures from the media are appreciated if you have them but not required.

We want to celebrate all the good things that are happening in Priority Schools! Please send all information to Donna Davis at donna.davis@education.ky.gov.

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